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Field Notes - January 22, 1963

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Game

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F I E L D N O T E S

JANUARY 22, 1963

FROM WARDEN SUPERVISOR ARTHUR ROGERS, DIV. C, WATERTVILLE, JAN. 7:

WARDEN CHARLES TOBIE, E. NEWPORT: BEAVER TRAPPERS GOT OFF TO A SLOW START BECAUSE OF HEAVY SNOW, BUT ROADS HAVE BEEN CLEARED AND SNOWSHOEING IS GOOD. THE RABBIT POPULATION IS DEFINITELY AT A LOW POINT AND GROUSE REMAIN IN A SIMILAR CONDITION, ACCORDING TO MY OBSERVATIONS IN THIS DISTRICT. I ANTICIPATE A RATHER BAD DOG-DEER SITUATION IN THE NEAR FUTURE AS THE SNOW WILL ALLOW DOGS TO RUN EASILY WHILE DEER ARE GOING DOWN IN THE SNOW TO THEIR KNEES OR HIGHER.

WARDEN ORAL D. PAGE, BELGRADE: THREE PEOPLE FROM NORTH BELGRADE WENT THROUGH THE ICE ON GREAT POND IN A JEEP RECENTLY -- LUCKILY IN ONLY A FEW FEET OF WATER. THE JEEP WAS RECOVERED WITH THE AID OF A BULLDOZER. ALBERT TRUE OF MERCER BAGGED A 31-POUND BOBCAT IN MERCER. THE TEETH OF THIS CAT WERE SHORT AND BLUNT, BUT HIS CLAWS WERE SHARP ENOUGH TO CUT UP THE DOG SOME WHEN THEY TANGLED IN THE THICKET. A FEW DAYS LATER, TRUE FOUND WHERE ANOTHER BOBCAT HAD KILLED A SMALL DEER.

MORE

FIELD NOTES/ADD 1

WARDEN MELLEN RANDALL, LIVERMORE: HUNTERS ARE FINDING RABBITS SCARCE, APPARENTLY DUE TO AN ABUNDANCE OF FISHER. DEER CONTINUE TO MOVE ABOUT DIGGING FOR APPLES, AND DOGS ARE CHASING AND KILLING THEM IN SEVERAL SECTIONS. FISHERMEN ARE ACTIVE ON MOST WATERS, WITH LIGHT CATCHES CHECKED AND REPORTED TO DATE. ANASAGUNTICOOK LAKE AT CANTON AND HARTFORD IS OPEN TO ICE FISHING FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MANY YEARS.

WARDEN NORMAN GILBERT, HARTLAND: ON OPENING DAY OF BEAVER TRAPPING, I CHECKED A TRAPPER SETTING UP A FEW MINUTES AFTER MIDNIGHT. THERE IS MORE INTEREST IN TRAPPING IN THIS AREA THIS YEAR, AND I HOPE THIS WILL HAVE THE DESIRED EFFECT ON THE MANY TROUBLE AREAS NEXT SPRING. THE RECENT BIG SNOW STORM DID NOT SLOW UP DEER TRAVEL, AS THEY ARE STILL COMING TO THE ORCHARDS AND APPLE TREES NEAR THE ROADS.

WARDEN LEON GILPATRICK, BELFAST: THERE IS A LOT OF SNOW, OVER TWO FEET IN THE WOODS AND FIELDS. THE DEER ARE STILL MOVING AROUND AND COMING TO THE APPLE TREES. A DEER WAS KILLED BY DOGS RECENTLY IN SWANVILLE. THE DOGS DROVE THE DEER MORE THAN THREE MILES. ICE FISHING HAS SLOWED DOWN.

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FROM WARDEN SUPERVISOR DAVID PRIEST, DIV. G. LINCOLN CENTER, JAN. 13:

THERE HAS BEEN VERY LITTLE HUNTING OR FISHING GOING ON SINCE THE HEAVY SNOW.

DEER ARE MOVING AROUND WITH DIFFICULTY, BUT THE HEAVY SNOWFALL DID HELP THEM BY BREAKING OVER MANY CEDAR TREES, AND BENDING OTHERS SO THE DEER CAN EASILY FEED ON THE TOPS.

THERE ARE QUITE A FEW BEAVER TRAPPERS THIS YEAR IN SPITE OF THE LOW PRICES AND THE DEEP SNOW.

THERE ARE AT LEAST 14 TRAPPERS IN THE MILLINOCKET AREA USING SNOW TRAVELLERS THIS WINTER.

MORE

FROM WARDEN SUPERVISOR CURTIS COOPER, DIV. I, STOCKHOLM, JAN. 13:

WARDEN PHILIP DUMOND, ESTCOURT: DEER ARE MOVING AROUND WELL, TRAVELING OUTSIDE OF THEIR WINTER YARDING AREAS, AND APPEAR TO BE PLENTIFUL IN THIS DISTRICT. RABBITS ARE VERY NUMEROUS, BUT THERE SEEM TO BE FEWER GROUSE THAN A YEAR AGO. LUMBERING ACTIVITY IS DOWN IN THIS DISTRICT THIS YEAR.

INSPECTOR HERBERT W. VERNON, SINCLAIR: DEER SIGNS ARE PLENTIFUL IN THE FALL BROOK LAKE AREA, AND THEY ARE GETTING AROUND VERY GOOD ON THE WELL PACKED SNOW. CONDITIONS FOR SNOWSHOEING AND TRAVELLING BY SNOW-TRAVELLER ARE THE BEST.

SUPERVISOR COOPER: ON JAN. 10, WHILE PATROLLING THE BOUNDARY DISTRICTS WITH WARDEN PILOT DICK VARNEY, WE OBSERVED A LOT OF OPEN WATER IN THE RIVERS AND STREAMS THROUGHOUT THE DIVISION. WE ALSO NOTED THAT THE DEER WERE BUNCHED UP IN SMALL NUMBERS VERY SIMILAR TO THE WAY THEY WERE DURING NOVEMBER.

IN SOME PLACES, THE DEER SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN CAUGHT AT CONSIDERABLE DISTANCES FROM WINTER FEED DURING THE LAST STORM. IT LOOKS AS IF WE HAVE HAD A SLIGHT INCREASE IN MOOSE.

BEAVER TRAPPING ACTIVITY IS DOWN IN THE BACK COUNTRY, AND ONE OF THE BEST TRAPPERS IN THE BUSINESS, VINCENT HINCKS, HAD NOT SHOWN UP AT HIS CENTER BROOK CAMP AS OF JAN. 10. IN THE FARM AREAS, TRAPPING SEEMS ABOUT NORMAL, AND TWO TRAPPERS HAVE CAUGHT 18 TO DATE.

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FROM WARDEN SUPERVISOR WALLACE BARRON, DIV. J, CARATUNK PLT. JAN. 18:

THIN ICE AND HEAVY SNOW HAVE CREATED A HAZARD FOR TRAVEL ON THE ICE. PLANES AND SNOW TRAVELLERS ARE FINDING SLUSH IN MANY PLACES. AREAS AROUND THE MOUTHS OF STREAMS AND RIVERS ARE THE WORST. AT THOSE PLACES CHECKED, 12 TO 15 INCHES OF ICE APPEARS TO BE THE MAXIMUM. MANY SPOTS HAVE TWO LAYERS OF ABOUT FOUR TO SIX INCHES OF ICE WITH ABOUT SIX INCHES OF WATER BETWEEN. THE LOWER LAYER OF ICE IS NOT VERY FIRM.

MORE

FIELD NOTES/ADD 3

RUNNING CONDITIONS FOR DOGS ARE VERY GOOD AT PRESENT. SOME INTEREST HAS BEEN NOTED IN CAT HUNTING. FRANK BROCHU, BINGHAM WOODS OPERATOR, ADVISES THAT ONE OF HIS CUTTERS, WHILE WALKING TO WORK AT THE MAYFIELD OPERATION, SAW A LARGE CAT PERCHED ON A BLOWDOWN. THE CAT STAYED THERE AS THE CUTTER APPROACHED TO WITHIN 30 FEET OR SO. THE CUTTER RETREATED AND WAITED FOR A TRACTOR THAT WAS COMING ALONG. THE TRACTOR ALSO GOT WITHIN 30 FEET BEFORE THE CAT WENT OFF INTO THE WOODS.

ICE FISHING PRESSURE AT WYMAN LAKE IS HEAVY, AND SMELT FISHING IS GENERALLY GOOD. THERE ARE ABOUT 100 SHANTIES ON THE ICE; THE HEAVIEST CONCENTRATIONS ARE AT CARNEY AND DECKER BROOKS, ALONGSIDE U.S. ROUTE 201.

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FROM WARDEN SUPERVISOR JACK SHAW, DIV. K, STRONG, JAN. 12:

WARDEN EBEN PERRY, RANGELEY: MORE BEAVER TRAPPING PRESSURE THAN USUAL THIS YEAR. SNOW TRAVELLING MACHINES SEEM TO BE QUITE POPULAR AMONG TRAPPERS AND ARE BEING USED QUITE EXTENSIVELY.

WARDEN GRAY MORRISON, KINGFIELD: THE ICE ON GILMAN POND IS 18 INCHES THICK. BEAVER TRAPPERS SEEM TO BE CONCENTRATING ON ONE HOUSE ON GILMAN STREAM. THEY HAVE 27 TRAPS SET. FOX SEEM TO BE ON THE INCREASE.

SUPERVISOR SHAW: MOST LAKES AND PONDS HAVE A LOT OF SLUSH ON THEM THIS PAST WEEK.

WHILE WORKING WITH WARDEN JOHN SWASEY AT SOUTH ARM, WE OBSERVED A CHIPMUNK, WHICH IS RATHER UNUSUAL FOR THIS TIME OF YEAR.

FROM SUPERVISOR JACK SHAW, JAN. 19:

WARDEN MARTIN SAVAGE, OQUOSSOC: THERE ARE A FEW BEAVER TRAPPERS AROUND MY DISTRICT, AND DUE TO THE COMPETITION, THE TRAPPERS HAVE A TENDENCY TO SQUEEZE THE TRAPPING LAWS. WARDEN EBEN PERRY AND I HAVE FOUND -- WITHIN SIX DAYS -- FIVE TRAPS TOO CLOSE TO HOUSES AND DAMS.

MORE

FIELD NOTES/ADD 4

INSPECTOR ALANSON NOBLE, DIXFIELD: ICE ON THE BEAVER FLOWAGES HAS WEAKENED DURING THE RECENT MILD SPELL. I HAVE SEEN SEVERAL PLACES WHERE TRAPPERS AND WARDENS GOT WET. DEER ARE MOVING WELL THROUGHOUT THE DIVISION AND STILL WORKING ACORNS IN THE SOUTHERN HALF.

WARDEN K. BRYCE CLAYTON, EUSTIS: BEAVER TRAPPING IS IN FULL SWING IN THIS AREA WITH AROUND 10 TRAPPERS TRYING THEIR LUCK. RABBITS ARE SHOWING AN INCREASE. VERY LITTLE ICE FISHING ACTIVITY.

WARDEN GRAY MORRISON, KINGFIELD: THE BEAVER TAKE HAS BEEN VERY SLOW, AND TRAPPERS SAY THIS IS DUE TO TOO MUCH OPEN WATER. PICKEREL AT FLAGSTAFF LAKE ARE RUNNING LARGE. THE ROAD TO SPRING LAKE IS CLOSED BEYOND BLANCHARD BOG.

WARDEN ALDEN KENNETT, BETHEL: FOUND A SAW-WHET OWL DEAD IN THE ROAD AT MUD POND IN GREENWOOD BUT COULD NOT DETERMINE THE CAUSE OF DEATH. FISHERMEN AT ROUND POND IN GREENWOOD ARE STILL GETTING A GREAT MANY FLAGS BUT A HIGHER PERCENTAGE OF YELLOW PERCH NOW. THE MILD WEATHER THIS LAST WEEK HAS OPENED A GREAT MANY OF THE STREAMS, THUS MELTING OUT BEAVER SETS AND MAKING TRAVEL HAZARDOUS ON THE FLOWAGES.

WARDEN JOHN SWASEY, ANDOVER: NOT MANY HUNTERS AROUND. THERE SEEMS TO BE A FEW MORE TRAPPERS THAN LAST YEAR.

SUPERVISOR SHAW: PICKEREL FISHING HAS BEEN GOOD AT FLAGSTAFF LAKE THIS YEAR, WITH LIMIT CATCHES BEING TAKEN. WE BELIEVE THIS IS DUE TO THE LAKE BEING FULL, WHICH IS UNUSUAL FOR THIS TIME OF YEAR.